

Verwood u3a Committee Meeting Minutes. 9th October 2024.

1. Apologies - Howard Wells, Jo Dix

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th August agreed. These can be placed on the website.

3. Chair Report

Membership is currently at 358 with 44 members still to renew. 46 members have resigned to date.

4. Treasurer Report

JBM reported on latest Accounts which had been circulated to members. This year's income is £2,200 ahead of last year's total subscriptions.

Gift Aid is at £1,990 to date.

Lottery - currently there are only 17 members now in the Spare Ball Lottery. JCM said that as a registered Charity we cannot run a Lottery if it does not project at least break-even. We must assume a potential payout each week which means that our minimum numbers should be at 22. Therefore, we should not be running a lottery with less than 22 members. The lottery has raised significant funds for us but is becoming less popular. We need to take a decision about whether we continue the lottery. We will do this when HJW is present.

JT mentioned that Nat West Bank offers a preferential interest rate on a 90-day notice deposit account. JBM said he will look into this.

At our last meeting we agreed that in future if there is discussion around any change of fees, we will hold an EGM to advise members of our plans for fee change and the rationale behind it. However, the Committee will make the final decision, taking into account the views of members. We will advise members of this decision at the AGM.

5. Groups and Venues Report

Most groups have started back with a few more due to start later this month.

- * Mindfulness starts on 17th October
- * Astronomy starts 24th October
- * There is an Inaugural Health group meeting on 22nd October
- * Pickleball has attracted some new members. We have bought nets which LN is carrying around in his car boot. We agreed that these can be stored in a cupboard at Emmanuel Sports Hall.
- * There is a new Electric Band group starting on 30th October. This has received positive response with three people renewing membership to join this group. GM is leading this initially.
- * The Craft group is holding a Christmas Craft afternoon on 28 November
- * There will be four Geology sessions after Christmas

6. AGM 25th October

JCM has already alerted members to the AGM in September, (this must be done 3 weeks before the AGM). JCM will send out an invitation to all members to attend the AGM. She will spend an Agenda, minutes of AGM held on 10th October 2023, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report.

The Agenda will include:

Annual Report (Chair report)

Approve Accounts

Appoint Auditor - JE is willing to stand again

Election of Officers - all are standing again except LH who is standing down

At the last AGM VH suggested that we approach the Solar Fund. JCM has looked into this, but we did not want to submit a bid in the same financial year we had received a grant from Dorset

Council. The last couple of grant bid options have been for capital grants, which we would not be eligible for. JCM is keeping an eye out for future fund bid opportunities.

7. Committee Vacancies

JCM has sent out an email requesting members to express an interest in joining the Committee - we have three vacancies, in particular a Vice Treasurer and Vice Chair. To date she has not received any expressions of interest from a member wishing to join the Committee. It is really concerning that no members are interested in joining the Committees. JCM can only serve one more year as Chair and will definitely be standing down in October 2025.

8. Any Other Business

8.i Beacon

GM has taken on the role of Beacon Administrator which also incorporates the Membership Secretary role at present. We have now paid our first year membership of Beacon - £1.00 per member. He has spent much time inputting all our member data information. The system works really well. It is easy to use and has streamlined many of our previously cumbersome information and communication systems.

It was agreed that Gareth is fulfilling a recognised Officer role, although he will not attend Committee on a regular basis, but may attend as required.

8.ii Role of Trustees

Charity Commission Information re Trustee Role

JT advised that CC has circulated an update about the role of Trustees. (JCM has since circulated this information).

8.iii

Date next Meeting

JCM advised that she was away on the date for the next planned Committee Meeting in December. All agreed to change the meeting to 25th November 2-4 pm at The Hub.